

This case shows that in lesions of the pons the face may be turned toward the side opposite that of the cerebral lesion. Only three or four cases of the kind have been reported.

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OPHTHALMOSCOPIC APPEARANCES IN TRAUMATIC INJURIES OF THE HEAD. We copy from *L'Union Médicale* the following conclusions of a memoir by M. Panas, read before the Paris Académie de Médecine, Feb. 22, 1876.

1. The stasis papilla is often met with following various traumatic lesions of the encephalon, (commotions, contusions, wounds, fractures of the cranium, etc.)

2. The stasis in question is not always accompanied with visual disorders. We should therefore examine the fundus of the eye in all cases of wound of the head, whether the patient complains of a defect of vision or not.

3. According to our own autopsies this stasis seems to depend, as Schwalbe held, on an infiltration of blood or serum in the optic envelope and not on the cerebral lesion itself.

4. The stasis papilla cannot be considered as connected with any one variety of traumatism of the head rather than with another, nor can we form an opinion, any more from it than other symptoms, of the seriousness of the injury.

5. All that we can affirm, in the present state of our knowledge, is that stasis papilla indicates the presence of a liquid diffused in the meninges.

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THE PREVALENCE OF NERVOUS DISEASES.—The following is taken from the report of a paper read by Dr. Althaus before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, January 25, as given in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, February 12. The paper was based on an analysis of the vital statistics contained in the British Registrar General's reports, from 1838 to 1871. The points studied by the author were the frequency of nervous diseases, whether or not they are on the increase, their relations as to race, sex, age, and locality. As to the first of these, he found that for six successive periods of five years each, the death rate from all forms of nervous diseases had varied only between 26 and 28 to each 10,000 of the population. Taking, however, the number of deaths from nervous diseases as compared with those from all other causes, we find a still more constant ratio, the average for thirty years being 12.26 of the whole.

As compared with the relative mortality from other disorders, he found that nervous diseases occupied a fourth place among the maladies destructive to human life; zymotic affections heading the list with 22.90 per cent.; next, tubercular disorders, with 15.94 per cent., followed closely by respiratory troubles with 14.16.

As regards the constancy of the ratio of nervous diseases to other affections, and their relative ratio one to another, it was found that there

had been an increase in all diseases of the brain and spinal cord, and their membranes, with the exception of hydrocephalus, and also of apoplexy and paralysis. Delirium tremens appeared to be decreasing, while an increase was perceptible for chorea and tetanus. Epilepsy had decidedly diminished for the past ten years, while the mortality from insanity was increasing. Infantile eclampsia showed the greatest decrease, its mortality having diminished 18 per cent. in thirty years, but the increase in other nervous diseases occurring at the same time, had left their proportion of the whole mortality unchanged. They could be ranged, according to their fatality, as follows: convulsions, 48.70; apoplexy, 16.19; paralysis, 15.96; disease, etc., 6.98; cephalitis, (including all inflammatory diseases of the brain and cord and their membranes,) 6.64; epilepsy, 3.79; insanity, 1.00; delirium, 0.83; tetanus, 0.26; and chorea, 0.10.

The investigations seemed to show that the common idea, that these affections are more common among inhabitants of towns than among dwellers in rural districts, is erroneous. The extraordinary prevalence of nervous diseases in Wales could not well be explained. Dr. Althaus suggests that the Celtic race is less resistant to such influences than the Saxon.

As regards the influence of sex, it was found that the mortality from these disorders was always greatest among males, the ratio for a quarter of a century being 12.94 against 11.62. The males died more from cephalitis, delirium tremens, infantile convulsions, tetanus, epilepsy and disease of the brain, while chorea and insanity were more frequent in females, and apoplexy and paralysis were about equally fatal to both sexes. The entire percentages of deaths amounted to 54 for males, and 46 for females; thus showing an excess of 8 per cent. for males.

The relation of age to the prevalence of these affections is as follows: there is an immense maximum in the first year of life; then a rapid descent until four years of age, but still the mortality in the first lustrum is greater than that of all other periods taken together. From five to thirty years of age the fatality from nervous disease is slight; at thirty-five there is a rise, which becomes large at sixty, and reaches its maximum at seventy. This maximum is, however, only one-tenth as great as that of infancy. The first maximum is due to convulsions, the second to apoplexy and paralysis.

The relative mortality to frequency of the different diseases was discussed with the following results: of insanity there were eighty-eight living cases to one death; the prevalence of cephalitis Dr. F. thought only slightly higher than its mortality; in paralysis the deaths were about one to twelve; chorea was fatal in about one per cent.; delirium tremens about twenty-five per cent.; in tetanus about one in three recovered; in epilepsy about two per cent. of cases were fatal. Hysteria, though very prevalent, was hardly ever fatal.

Dr. Althaus closed his paper with some remarks on the progress and prospects of therapeutics. He thought that we will be able in the future to considerably reduce the mortality of such diseases as convulsions, epilepsy, and tetanus.